

My name is Robert Smith. Good morning, Senator MacDonald and Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee. I would like to thank Governor Rell for nominating me to the Pardons Board.

As of July 1, 2008, I retired after twenty-one years with the Department of Correction. For approximately seventeen of those years I worked as a counselor in the correctional facilities in various capacities. I began working in 1987 as a substance abuse counselor with parolees. I worked at Western Substance Abuse Correctional Facility; this was a minimum security prison for adults in Newtown, CT. I worked there as a substance abuse counselor facilitating educational groups as well as meeting with inmates individually. At Manson Youth Institution I worked as a counselor for approximately thirteen years. Manson Youth Institution is a maximum security prison which houses approximately 700 inmates under the age of twenty. I served at Manson in different units, including the chronic discipline unit, the gang affiliation unit, mental health unit and in the general population unit. For the last four years at Manson I was in charge of the intake unit which assessed and coordinated each inmate's needs as they entered Manson.

The last four years I have worked for the Board of Pardons and Parole. Much of the time I worked in the Interstate Unit coordinating transfers of parolees from CT to other states, as well as arranging transfers for parolees who had immigration, federal and out of state detainers. Also, I worked on the Pardons Board processing applications for those applying for a pardon.

Since September 1, of 2008, I have been working part-time as an Associate Pastor at Faith Baptist Church in Southington, CT. As an Associate Pastor my duties consist of teaching, counseling, working with small groups, and a men's ministry.

I believe my background and experience make me well suited for this important position on the Pardons Board. If anyone had any questions, I would be happy to answer them now.

Robert B. Smith